Preventing trafficking of Indian women and children

†298. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any concrete steps to prevent trafficking of Indian women and children for prostitution; and

(b) the number of cases of trafficking of women and children registered during the last three years and the steps taken by Government in the regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITPA) supplemented by the Indian Penal Code prohibits trafficking in human being included children for purpose of prostitution and lays down severe penalties for trafficking. The Ministry of Women and Child Development conducts advocacy, awareness generation, sensitization programmes for prevention of trafficking of women and children. The Central Advisory Committee on Combating Child Prostitution headed by Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India reviews the States' activities in combating trafficking and prostitution periodically. The Ministry of Women and Child Development is also implementing the scheme of 'Ujjawala' wherein prevention of trafficking is included as a specific component. The Ministry also runs Swadhar Shelter Homes which provide shelter, food, clothing, emotional support, counseling, rehabilitation and other facilities to women in difficult circumstances including trafficked victims and children.

(b) As per the information furnished by National Crime Records Bureau, a total of 6402, 5096 and 4087 cases of trafficking related offences were reported during 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively.

Compulsory registration of marriages

299. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any recommendation from the National Commission for Women for compulsory registration of marriage; and

(b) if so, the steps Government is taking to implement it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On the basis of judgment dated 14.2.2006 in the case of Seema *Vs.* Ashwani Kumar, AIR 2006 SC, 1158, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed that marriages of all persons who are citizens of India belonging to various religions should be made compulsorily registrable in their respective States, where the marriage is solemnized. The Legislative Department has called for information from all the State Governments/Union Territories with regard to the compliance of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.